

# WHY THE EAST FAILS WITH THE FORWARD PASS

Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Other Eastern Players, as a General Rule, Do Not Grasp the Ball Properly. It Is Impossible to Throw the Oval Accurately From the Flat of the Hand—Capable Punters Are Now Essential to Teams, Due to Regulation of Pass

**W**ESTERN football players and followers who visit the east and western gridiron who visit the west constantly comparing the merits of eastern and western football. No final judgment can ever be reached unless many eastern teams meet many western teams. There is no possibility of this happening soon. And all arguments as to the relative merits of the two sections on the gridiron are so much wasted breath.

It is possible, however, to draw comparisons on certain factors in the game as they are observed. There is no doubt, for instance, that the west plays a more open and a more unrestricted passing game. The reason the east does not measure up to the west in the open game is simply this:

Eastern forward passers, as a general thing, do not grasp the ball properly for the direct, sharp and accurate pass. Instead of taking the ball between the thumb and fingers with a firm grip they hurl it from the flat of the hand.

Can't Be Thrown From Flat of Hand.

Coaches Stagg of Chicago, Williams of Minnesota, Zupke of Illinois, Ford of Michigan and other western mentors early found the forward pass impossible if the ball was thrown from the flat of the hand. They taught their backs to grip the pigskin firmly for a short, snappy shot. Eastern coaches, in the main, prefer the flat hand, long arm swing so much in vogue. Foster Sanford, old Yale star, who coached Rutgers, said one day on Neilson field, at New Brunswick, N. J., in reply to a question whether he preferred to have Scarr, his quarterback, hurl the ball flat handed, that he liked that style better than the grip. He preferred it, he said, because it could be used with a wet ball as well as with a dry one. He overlooked, apparently, the fact that if a ball was so wet it could not be thrown properly it could not be caught reliably.

Reason Is Poor One.

Even if Sanford's reason were valid it would not be feasible to sacrifice speed and accuracy to the chances of a rainy day coming along to interfere with the better method. Forward passing is rarely attempted with a wet ball.

Harry Legore of Yale knew how to handle the forward pass properly. Frothing of the Army could shoot the ball as accurately as he could throw a baseball. Dorais of Notre Dame visited the east and showed how to shoot the ball. Oliphant of the Army team learned to throw the ball when he was at Purdue.

Most eastern forward passers use a long, side arm swing, with the palm of the hand upward. The ball goes high in the air or wobbles in its course. Too, it generally gets a bad spin that makes it difficult to catch. The whole procedure is as ridiculous as trying to throw a discus to a given point, using the regulation discus swing.

Grasp the Ball.

Western forward passers, the best of those, grasp the ball with fingers on the inside, in the middle, and run with it so. They can run or bluff a run with the ball in the same grip. Throwing,

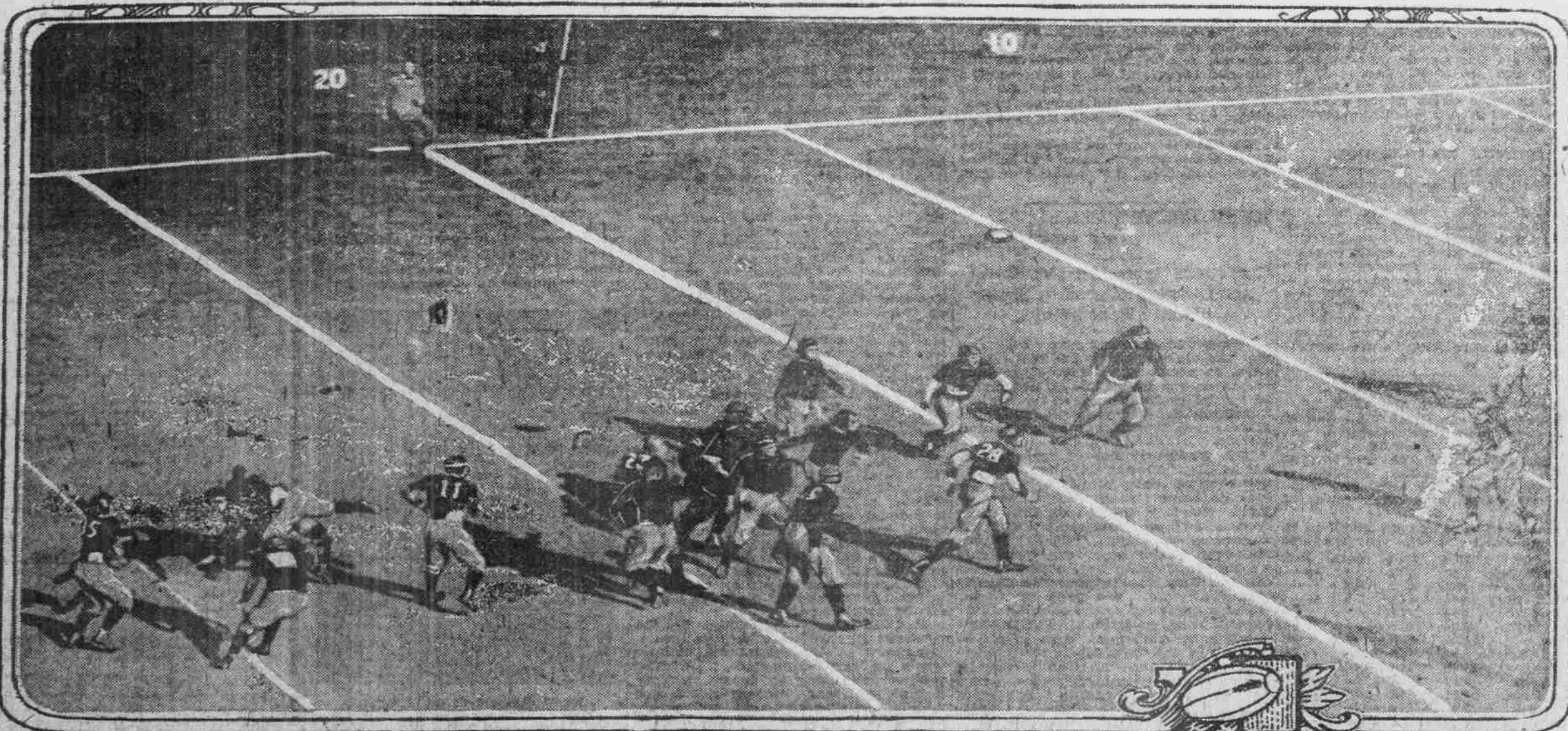


Photo by American Press Association.

## Shea of Princeton Trying Forward Pass In Yale-Princeton Game. It Was Unsuccessful

they raise the pigskin only as high as the head and no more than six inches out from the head. And they get speed and accuracy on the old pigskin.

This stuff about the forward pass being unreliable and tricky is all bosh. When the ball is handled properly the play is reasonably safe.

Various teams from time to time have played havoc with Yale by means of the forward pass, and the blue is considered weak in guarding against this device. Nevertheless, Yale has accomplished a good deal more against Harvard and Princeton with the forward pass than either has accomplished against Yale. So far as this triangle is concerned, Yale has made better use of the pass and been damaged by it less.

The forward pass was born in 1906, and since that time Princeton has won one game from Yale, 6-3, in 1911. Those six points were from White's run, with which a forward pass had nothing to do. The 1911 game was a tie, 6-6, and the six Princeton points were from field goals. The 1913 game was a 3-3 tie, so Princeton never has

beaten Yale with the forward pass. On the other hand, Yale beat Princeton 5-3 in 1910 with a touchdown which was a direct result of a forward pass. Howe to Kilpatrick. Last year Yale employed the forward and lateral pass extensively and directly in the beating of Princeton. In this year's Princeton-Yale game forward passes were instrumental in Yale winning. In that game Yale, directed by Hinkey, showed the prettiest variation of the passing game football ever has seen, and the game is a lesson when tactics of that sort fall into a decline.

Harvard won from Yale in 1908, 4-0, by Kennard's field goal after Ver Wiebe's rushes had carried the ball to easy kicking distance. In 1912 Harvard won, 20-0, and the scoring began when Storor picked up a fumbled ball and ran with it for a touchdown. Harvard won, 15-6, in 1913, and all the points for the crimson were from Brinkley's field goals. Harvard's thirty-six points last year were mostly from the running game. The forward pass cut no figure. In 1909 Yale's 8-0 victory over Harvard came immediately after a forward pass. This pass, Veeder to Al-

cott, was one of the longest ever used in a football game.

What claims to greatness Washington and Jefferson may have had, in a football way, were eliminated by Pittsburgh recently; also by one little play which must have caused unspeakable horror to football tacticians who witnessed the break. A paragraph in the description of the story of the game reads:

"Pittsburgh's last touchdown resulted from an intercepted forward pass on W. and A.'s ten yard line and two plunges through the line. Fry going over."

Can you imagine any situation that would justify attempting a forward pass on one's own ten yard line? They don't try that in high school circles.

### Regulation of Forward Passes Reveals Need For Capable Punters.

Following the changing of the rule in regard to a forward pass being thrown out of bounds, the value of a kicker in football has increased 40 per cent. Under the old rule the ball went to the opponents at the point where it crossed

the side line. Coaches took advantage of this by developing players who could throw the ball thirty and forty yards down the field with the accuracy of a baseball. When a team was fortified with such players punting was rarely resorted to, and on the fourth down the ball was thrown down the field and out of bounds.

Such tactics of course did not give players of the defending team a chance to run the ball back, and so much advantage was taken of the rule that the committee at its meeting last year changed the code so that a penalty of a down is inflicted and the ball put in play at the point of the previous down. If the ball is thrown out of bounds on the fourth down the oval is brought back to the point of the previous down and given to the opposing eleven.

### Can Now Run Back Punts.

It readily can be seen that the change was for the best and increased the value of a kicker and went further to equalize the offense and defense than any alteration in the code in the last three years. A team on defense now has a chance to run the ball back

and lessen the distance of the punts. The change also benefits the kicking side in that it can recover the ball in case of a fumble by one of the catching side. As a result the players who are stationed in the back field must catch the ball. There also are more action and interest in the plays by having the ball in the playing field at all times.

The effect of the change is shown by the number of kickers developed at the various colleges this year. Most of these players are punters and field goal kickers, and a number of important games already have been won by the air line route. A player who is a punter is generally the field goal kicker, and as a result the changing of the forward pass out of bounds rule has developed several kickers who would not have been heard from if the old rule remained unchanged.

### Boot Ball Out of Bounds.

In developing such kickers the coaches generally instruct them to try to kick the ball as far down the field as possible with the one idea in mind to boot the oval out of bounds.

There are kickers who can do this, but they are few—that is, the ones who can get the desired distance in their efforts.

When a team is in its opponent's territory and too far away to try for a field goal, the kickers now are instructed to boot the ball high in the air without crossing the goal line. This allows players of the kicking side to cover the kick and recover the ball in case of a fumble. It follows that a player who attempts to catch the oval in the shadows of his own goal posts is nervous, and the more players sent down to tackle him will make him more apt to fumble.

### One Point Not Covered.

The rules committee undoubtedly will take action on the point of a player running out of bounds and then cutting back on the field to receive a forward pass. The play has come up several times. The player was not in possession of the ball at the time he crossed the side line and was in the field of play when he caught the oval. At the time the runner was out of bounds the ball was in the air and belonged to any member of the defending team or else a player of the passer's side before it touched the ground. As there is a specific ruling on the point, the proper thing to do would be to bring the ball back to the point from which it was snapped and order the formation played over.

Inserting the ten yard penalty for intentional grounding of the ball has resulted in more action. The players now take more chances with the ball and throw it down the field on every attempt to successfully execute the play. Before this penalty was inserted, over half of the ball merely tossed the ball a yard or two forward when they saw it would be impossible to make the pass to one of their eligible players.

### Protection For Fullback.

Giving the fullback more protection after he has kicked the ball is in line with popular approval of most players, although it is hard for them to avoid the kicker when they charge through with plenty of drive. In such cases the officials should use their own judgment as to whether a blocking player intentionally roughs the kicker or whether the bumping into him was accidental. There have been few penalties for such an offense this season, as the coaches have instructed their players fully on the rule.

A point which was in the rules last year and which has been omitted this season is the roughing of the person after he has thrown the ball. In some contests the passers have been hurt by being run into after the ball had been thrown, but the officials were at a loss how to rule such an infringement. The general opinion of western coaches and officials is that the same penalty should be inflicted as for roughing the kicker. An understanding on the point before the contest will go a long way toward avoiding trouble in the game.

### Little Revision Needed.

The knocking down of the secondary defense after the ball has been declared dead is another change in the code which has met with popular approval. There have been few violations of the rule which also includes throwing the feet in the air to strike an opponent in the face.

## Gerish of Dartmouth One of the Season's Stars



Photo by American Press Association.

IN Gerish, Dartmouth has produced one of the greatest punters of the 1915 season. In addition to being a great punter, he is also one of the best all around kickers in the game. Gerish's playing at halfback has also been brilliant. While not a Mahan, he is one of the best.

### Owen "Comes Back" As A Big League Umpire.

BAN JOHNSON, president of the American league, has added "Brick" Owen to his staff of umpires. Owen for the last few seasons acted as an umpire in the American association. This will not be Owen's first trip to the big league as an umpire. Several

years ago he was one of the most valuable umpires in the National league, but was dismissed by Thomas Lynch, who was then president of the old organization, for reasons that were not made public. Owen is considered by many baseball experts as being as good as Bill Klem and Billy Evans in calling balls and strikes.

### TOUGH FOR PITCHERS WHEN HUGGINS IS UP.

IF there is any man in the world harder to pitch to than Miller Huggins the average National league twirler hasn't yet lunched the individual. One day when Huggins was batting against Vic Willis, then with the Pirates, the Rabbit fouled off twelve consecutive balls. Vic was an easy going cuss, but he became highly incensed and yelled to the umpire:

"Get a batter! I'm tired of throwing the ball to a bunch of nothing like that guy up there now!"

"Beg pardon, but I can't help you," replied the ump. "You will have to get rid of Huggins first. The rules say so, and I can't go behind the rules, you know."

### HALFBACK PAYNE BEATS O'DEA'S MARK.

MARK PAYNE, halfback on the Dakota Wesleyan eleven, in the game with the Northern Normal school at Mitchell, S. D., recently broke all previous records for drop kicks when he booted the ball over the bars from a distance of sixty-three yards.

This is the longest drop kick in football annals. Pat O'Dea, the famous Wisconsin end, dropkicked a distance of sixty-two yards in a game against Northwestern on Nov. 25, 1908.

On Nov. 30, 1882, J. T. Haxall of Princeton kicked goal from placement for a distance of sixty-five yards in a game against Yale.

### Don'ts For Gunners

THE fall gunning season is about on, and every year the hunting brings with it its spoils in the form of human sacrifices. For the benefit of gunners who are planning to go after game this season the following list of don'ts is given:

- Don't take any chances. The function of a shotgun is to scatter shot, but be very careful where you scatter it.
- Don't blaze away in haste and don't get excited. Many a shooter has filled his favorite dog full of lead just because he was overanxious.
- Don't point a gun at any person in jest. It is always the gun that "we didn't know was loaded" that goes off and does the damage. The only time to point a gun is when you intend to kill.
- Don't take every rustle of a bush or a bough to be a sure indication of game. Remember that an inquisitive person has a penchant for being in strange places.
- Don't carry a loaded gun through the street or on cars, trains, automobiles or any other kind of vehicle or leave it around farmhouses to have some child playfully blow a head off.
- Don't get excited and shoot without making sure that your object is game.
- Don't shoot until you see the rabbit, and then be sure that he is clear of both man and dog.
- Don't drag a gun under a fence with the muzzle pointed toward you.
- Don't climb over fences with your gun or lean it against a tree until you get over.
- Don't put through the fence and on the ground business end before.
- Don't hunt with any one that you know to be careless. Carelessness with three and a quarter drams of powder behind and one or one-eighth ounces of shot is inviting "sure death."
- Don't load your gun until you are actually ready for business. At all other times it should be empty. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are looking down the barrel at your game.
- Don't use a cheap gun, as it is apt to explode when a heavy charge is used.
- Don't borrow a dog or gun or loan either.
- Don't rest on the muzzle of your gun.
- Don't violate the game laws. It is not only criminal, but sometimes very costly.
- Don't "hog" all the game. Leave a little behind for the next fellow.
- Don't rest the muzzle of your gun on the ground. A chum muzzle clogged with dirt or mud is a dangerous proposition.

## IS FOND OF BEATING PIRATES

NOT even a world series victory can give Grover Cleveland Alexander half the pleasure as beating the Pirates. And this is the story:

Back in 1910 Barney Dreyfuss heard about the big starboard hurler, who then was with the Syracuse club in the New York State league. Dreyfuss looked over Alexander—or had one of his scouts do it—and decided that Alexander was entirely too green.

Horace E. Fogel, then president of the Phillies, heard of Alexander about the same time, watched him during several games and decided to grab him. Fogel ingeniously "shooed" away other scouts, balked at paying the big price that one of the owners of the club asked for Alexander, and finally secured him in draft for \$750.

Alexander, from his first day with the Phillies, was a star. When the midseason came in 1911 his name was on every tongue of fandom. And then it was that Dreyfuss won the undying enmity of the great twirler.

Somebody evidently asked Dreyfuss why he didn't sign up Alexander when he had a chance, probably intimating that Dreyfuss had made a big error in judgment. Dreyfuss was quoted in the papers as saying that he could have signed Alexander, but he kept "off" of him because the pitcher's habits were bad.

Alexander, whose habits are and ever

have been models for every youth, saw the article and went white with rage when he read it. Throwing down the paper, he hunted up President Fogel and Manager Charlie Doolin.

"I'd like to ask a favor," he said. "What is it?" asked Fogel.

"That you give me permission to pitch two out of every four games against the Pirates," answered Alexander.

"Why do you want to do that?" was asked.

"Because I want to beat his club for what he is publicly quoted as saying about me."

Alexander's request was granted, and the records show that over a four year stretch the Pirates have beaten Alexander only two or three times.

### HANK GOWDY CELEBRATES.

HANK GOWDY, the Boston backstop recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of his debut in the National league. He got his major league start with the New York Giants on Sept. 13, 1910, when he covered first base in a game in which the Pirates opposed the McGraw men. Gowdy's record in the field was ten putouts, one assist and one error. At the bat he didn't get a hit in three times up, the delivery of "Babe" Adams being too baffling for the future star of the Beaneaters.

### EVERS DIDN'T REMEMBER NEHF.

WHEN Arthur Nehf, the remarkable southpaw who was purchased last summer by the Braves, was introduced to Johnny Evers by Manager Stallings, he said:

"Howdy! This is the second time I've had the pleasure of meeting you, Mr. Evers."

"You don't say so?" exclaimed the Boston captain. "When was that?"

"It was the year you managed the Cubs," said the young left hander. "I reported one morning and you gave me the grand bounce that afternoon. You told me I'd never be a major league pitcher."

"I fired you, eh?" retorted Evers, after looking at Nehf over carefully. "Well, it's no wonder Charley Murphy tied the can to me. We managers all make mistakes. I'm strong for you now!"

### WATCH DADMUN OF HARVARD.

FUNNY how a star at one place is only a rookie at the other. It's all in the difference of styles. Harry Dadmum, luminary at Tufts two years ago when he put up a rattling fine game against Harvard, and now at Harvard, looks no better than many of the raw recruits in the Crimson line. Don't rest the muzzle of your gun on the ground. A chum muzzle clogged with dirt or mud is a dangerous proposition. As he has unlearned his Tufts football and gets accustomed to Haughton's style he will again shine.

## Captain Wilson, Although Not a Great Player, Put Up a Steady Game



Photo by American Press Association.

WHILE Captain Wilson of Yale cannot be classed with the leading backs of the season, some credit should be given him for being an able pilot. Wilson, when he was sent back to catch punts, was a certain hander and a strong, although not fast, runner, so that when he played quarter formerly he had been able to run back a reasonable amount of distance, even though he was tackled quickly.